

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /077 W
-----111203Z 007030/13

P R 102025Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7482
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 0326

E.0. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM; PINT, BR
SUBJ: MILITARY COURT DENIES LAWYERS' PETITION CONCERNING HUMAN
RIGHTS OF PC DO B PRISONER

REF: SAO PAULO 0238

SUMMARY: A SAO PAULO MILITARY COURT HAS REJECTED DEFENSE LAWYERS'
ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE OF CHINESE LINE COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL
COMMITTEE MEMBER ALDO DA SILVA ARANTES BY SECOND ARMY DOI-CODI.
COURT ACTION BASED ON STATEMENT BY SECOND ARMY COMMANDER DILERMANDO
GOMES MONTEIRO AND MEDICAL REPORT OF POLICE DOCTOR. LAWYERS'
CHARGES HAVE BEEN SUPPORTED BY CALLS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF
ARANTES' CONDITION BY CHURCH-LINKED SAO PAULO GROUPS AND INTER-
NATIONAL PROTESTS. PROTESTS HAVE EARMARKS OF ORCHESTRATED CAMPAIGN.
WHILE ARMY PRACTICES MAY NOT BE VERIFIED BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A
DOUBT, IT IS CLEAR THAT GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION IN THIS CASE IS TO
FOLLOW LETTER OF THE LAW. END SUMMARY.

1. SAO PAULO MILITARY COURT HAS DENIED THE PETITION OF LAWYERS FOR
ALDO DA SILVA ARANTES DENOUNCING HIS TORTURE BY SECOND ARMY
DOI-CODI (DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL OPERATIONS.) THE COMPLAINT
WAS RECEIVED BY THE SECOND ARMY ON FEBRUARY 1 AND RESPONDED TO
ON FEBRUARY 4. THE RESPONSE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MEDICAL STATEMENTS
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FROM THE DUTY PHYSICIAN OF THE POLICE LIGAL-MEDICAL INSTITUTE
AND A SECOND ARMY MEDIC. THE STATEMENT ASSERTS AT THAT ARANTES
SHOWED NO SIGNS OF ELECTRIC SHOCKS OR NON-RECENT INJURIES (THE
COMPLAINT HAD BEEN MADE ON JANUARY 27). MARKS ON ARANTES' BODY
WERE CONSIDERED NORMAL FOR A PRISONER AND FOR A PERSON IN HIS
CONDITION (ARANTES HAS EPILEPSY AND REPORTEDLY SUSTAINS SOME INJURIES
DURING HIS SEIZURES.)

2. A SERIES OF APPEALS FOR FURTHER, IMPARTIAL INVESTIGATION HAVE COINCIDED WITH THE LAWYERS' PETITION. THE PONTIFICAL COMMISSION ON JUSTICE AND PEACE, AFTER A VISIT FROM ARANTES' MOTHER, SENT A STRONG PROTEST TO GEN. DILERMANDO. JUSTICE AND PEACE PUBLISHED THE NOTE FEBRUARY 4, EXPRESSING ITS "MOST VEHEMENT CONCERN AT THE RESURGENCE OF ABOMINABLE PRACTICES." A SEPARATE GROUP, ORGINAZED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CARDINAL ARNS CALLING ITSELF "MILITANTS AND SYMPATHIZERS OF NON-VIOLENT ACTION", APPEALED TO GEN. DILERMANDO FEBRUARY 7. IT TOOK NOTE OF PREVIOUS PROTESTS AND THE GENERAL'S DENIAL, BUT ASKED "WHERE IS THE TRUTH?" THE GROUP WNATS ARANTES AND WITNESSES TO BE HEARD IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS LAWYERS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, AND EXAMINED BY A PHYSICIAN IN WHOM HE HAS CONFIDENCE. IT CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT, IF DOUBTS PERSIST ABOUT ARANTES' CONDITION, THE INVESTIGATION MUST CONTINUE.

3. INTERNATIONALLY, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PROTESTS CONCERN-ING THE PC DO B PRISONERS. IN LISBON, A GROUP OF POLITICIANS ATTEMPTED TO PRESENT A PROTEST TO THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR CONCERN-ING THE PC DO B MEMBERS KILLED DURING THE DECEMBER 16 RAID AND THOSE HELD PRISONER. THE AMBASSADOR REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE NOTE. IN PARIS, A FRENCH GROUP, INCLUDING SCIENTISTS ALFRED KASTLER AND ANDRE WOLFF, ACTORS YVES MONTAND AND SIMONE SIGNORET, CRITIC ROLAND BARTHES, WRITER CLAUDE MAURIAC AND THE BISHOP OF ORLEANS ASKED GEISEL TO STOP THE GRAVE VILATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IT CALLED FOR PUBLICATION OF THE NAMES OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND AN END TO THE BAD TREATMENT OF PRISONERS BY THE SECOND ARMY. PROTESTS HAVE ALSO BEEN PUBLISHED HERE FROM ENVER HOXA OF ALBANIAN

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COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BELGIAN SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY YOUTH WING HAS ASKED EMBASSY HERE TO PROTEST, THROUGH EMBASSY HAS DEFERRED ACTION PENDING MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT ARANTES AND OTHERS WERE TORUTURED. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAS RECEIVED A NUMBER OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS BUT HAS SEEN NO ADVANTAGE IN HAVING THEM PUBLISHED. IT IS REMORED THAT A UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE (FRENCH NATIONAL) IS IN SAO PAULO TO INVESTIGATE CASE. ARMY HAS REPORTEDLY PERMITTED THE REPRESENTATIVE TO INTERVIEW ARANTES.

4. COMMENT: THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS HAVE ALL THE EARMARKS OF AN ORCHESTRATED POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. WHILE ARMY PRACTICES MAY NOT BE VERIFIED BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT IN THIS CASE -- THE USE OF HOUSE PHYSICIANS AND DELAYS IN PERMITTING IMPARTIAL ACCESS TO ARANTES HAVE BEEN CRITICIZED -- THE GOVERNMENT, AND ESPECIALLY SECOND ARMY COMMANDER DILERMANDO, APPEAR TO BE AT PAINS TO FOLLOW THE LETTER OF THE LAW. ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND MILITARY SOURCES, GEN. DILERMANDO PROHIBITED FURTHR QUESTIONING

OF PRISONERS AT DOI-CODI AFTER LAWYERS PROTESTED MALTREATMENT.
GOVERNMENT RECEPTION OF UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE, IF TRUE, IS ALSO
PROMISING SIGN. THERE IS STILL CONSIDERABLE GOOD WILL ON PART OF
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOR GEN. DILERMANDO. SEVERAL HAVE SUGGESTED
THAT, IF ARANTES AND OTHER PC DO B PRISONERS HAVE BEEN MALTREATED,
IT PROBABLY WAS IN RIO. IF THEIR RIGHTS WERE INFRINGED UPON IN
SAO PAULO, IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF HARD-LINE INTELLIG-
ENCE OFFICERS OUT TO SABOTAGE DILERMANDO'S POLITICAL AMBITIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS WELFARE, POLITICAL PRISONERS, COURTS MARTIAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SAOPA00326
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770049-0778
Format: TEL
From: SAO PAULO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770254/aaaabvmx.tel
Line Count: 125
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 564c74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAO PAULO 238
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3353397
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY COURT DENIES LAWYERS' PETITION CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS OF PC DO B PRISONER
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, BR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/564c74c8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009